Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

73
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 055003
R 022040Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6797

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 11892

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE CU

SUBJ: FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ

1. IN A CONVERSATION YESTERDAY(DEC 1) AT MARACAIBO, WHERE BOTH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND I HAD GONE TO ATTEND CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY'S PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPER, PANORAMA, THE PRESIDENT ASKED IF I WOULD BE FREE TO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH HIM THIS MORNING. NATURALLY I ACCEPTED.

2. PRESIDENT DWELT LARGELY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE OAS AND CUBA. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A FAR-RANGING CONVERSATION IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED CHARACTERISTICALLY CANDID VIEWS ON OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE AND THEIR LEADERSHIP. IN CONSEQUENCE, SHOULD THE DEPT DECIDE TO CIRCULARZIE THIS REPORT, IT IS REQUESTED THAT ADDRESSEE EMBASSIES USE THIS INFO WITH CARE.

CUBA

2. THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM HARKING BACK TO THE QUITO CONFERENCE, TO HIS ARRANGEMENT WITH AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD TO POSTPONE OAS ACTION ON CUBA UNTIL AFTER THE US ELECTIONS, AND TO HIS REPEATED INSISTENCE THAT THE DEPT HAD DELIBERATELY LEAKED WORD OF THE MAILLIARD-PEREZ AGREEMENT. HE DID HOWEVER, ACCEPT MY POINT WHEN I SAID IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO SUPPOSE THAT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPT WOULD LEAK THAT INFO SINCE IT COULD ONLY BE INJURIOUS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TO OURSELVES.

3. THE PRESIDENT COMPLAINED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD SHOWN
BY HIS ABSENCE FROM QUITO THAT HE REALLY DID NOT CARE ABOUT LATIN
AMERICA. I SAID THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, AS INSTANCED BY THE
KISSINGER PRESENCE AT MEXICO EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT THAT THERE
WERE TWO GOOD REASONS FOR THE SECRETARY'S NOT APPEARING AT QUITO,
ONE BEING THE FACT THAT HE HAD VISITED SOME SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES
IN ALMOST AS MANY DAYS; AND THE OTHER THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW
OF INTERNAL POLITICS IN THE US, IF IN FACT THE US WAS TO BE
OUTVOTED AT THE QUITO CONFERENCE, THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE
FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO PRESIDE OVER WHAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED
AS A DIPLOMATIC DEFEAT. THIS, HOWEVER, HAD NOT HAPPENED
AND I WAS SATISFIED IN MY OWN MIND THAT THE US HAD EXERTED
NO PRESSUREON ANY OTHER DELEGATES AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD VOTE
AT QUITO. IT SEEMED TO ME OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO STOP HARKING
OVER RECENT PAST EVENTS AND TO LOOK AHEAD AS TO WHAT POLICES
MIGHT BE FOLLOWED IN FUTURE
DID VENEZUELA WANT THE US TO CONSULT FURTHER ON CUBA?

4. PEREZ SHOWED CONSISTENT INCONSISTENCY IN AT THE SAME TIME
PROFESSING UNSWERVING DEVOTION TO THE OAS WHILE MAINTAINING
THAT FOLLOWING THE QUITO MEETING EACH HEMISPHEREIC COUNTRY SHOULD
NOW FEEL FREE TO DO AS IT PLEASED WITH REGARD TO CUBA REGARDLESS
OF THE OAS. IN A MOOD OF EATING HIS CAKE AND HAVING IT TOO, HE
SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT HENCEFORTH THE HEMISPHERE REPUBLICS COULD
IGNORE THE OAS SO FAR AS CUBA SANCTIONS WERE CONCERNED BUT
SOMEHOW OR OTHER COULD MAINTAIN AND MAKE STRONGER THE OAS
ORGANIZATION.

5. PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHEN TO
RECOGNIZE CUBA BUT THAT VENEZUELA WOULD GO AHEAD AND RE-ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT A TIME WHICH BEST SUITED ITS CONVENIENCE.
HE SAID REPEATEDLY THAT VENEZUELA IN EFFECT HAD RESUMED PRACTICAL
RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THAT HE INTENDED TO GO AHEAD WITH TRADE
EXCHANGES, INCLUDING THE SALE OF VENEZUELAN RICE FOR CUBAN SUGAR.
HOWEVER, IF THERE WERE TO BE ANY SALE OF VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM
TO CUBA, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ON A CASH BASIS. HE DID NOT INTEND
TO BAIL OUT THE RUSSIANS IN GIVING OIL TO CASTRO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT BEFORE THE QUITO CONFERENCE BEGAN,
HE HAD RECEIVED A VISIT FROM PANAMANIAN FORIGN MINISTER TACK
WHO CLAIMED THAT PANAMA HD BEEN THREATENED BY THE US WITH
BREAKING OFF THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS IF IT DID NOT AT LEAST ABSTAIN
ON CUBA. WHETHER IN FACT TACK MADE SUCH A STATEMENT I HAVE NO
MEANS OF ASCERTAINING, BUT AT LEAST THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA
SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT WE DID EXERT DIRECT AND BLUNT PRESSURE ON
PANAMA ON THE CUBAN ISSUE. HE ALSO REPEATED THAT WERE IT NOT FOR

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

US SUASION HAITI WOULD HAVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF RECOGNIZING CASTRO.

7. SO FAR AS PRACTICAL RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED, THE PRESIDENT
SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CASTRO'S UNOFFICIAL ENVOY, NORBERTO HERNANDEZ,
WHO HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING A VENEZUELAN FRIEND OF
PRESIDENT PEREZ TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF HIS WIFE'S PARENTS
WHO HAD BEEN JAILED BY CASTRO IN CUBA. I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT
HERNANDEZ WULD BE A PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT IN WORKING OUT THE
DETAILS OF THE EVENTUAL RECOGNITION BY VENEZUELA OF THE CASTRO REGIME.

THE PRESIDENT ADDED SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY THAT IT WOULD BE GENERALLY
USEFUL FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IF A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY
LIKE VENEZUELA SHOULD MAINTAIN AN EMBASSY IN HAVANA. HE REFERRED
TO CASTRO AS A "LOCO FANATICO" BUT SAID THAT VENEZUELA
COULD NO LONGER MAINTAIN THE PRETENSE OF OAS OSTRACISM AND
WOULD RECOGNIZE CUBA AT ITS OWN GOOD TIME, BUT APPARENTLY,
HOWEVER, BEFORE THE MEETING OF HEMISPHERIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
IN BUENOS AIRES NEXT MARCH.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 11892 02 OF 02 022159Z

73
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 054857
R 022040Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6798

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 11892

EXDIS

AYACUCHO

8. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE PERUVIAN-ORGANIZED MEETING AT THE
END OF THIS WEEK TO COMMEMORATE THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE
OF AYACUCHO WOULD PROBABLY BE A FLOP. HE REGRETTED THE ABSENCE
OF SO MANY PRESIDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND
ARGENTINA. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED ON THE PHONE WITH LOPEZ
MICHELSEN OF COLOMBIA WHO HAD SOMEWHAT WEAKLY EXCUSED
HIMSELF FROM GOING TO LIMA FOR FEAR OF GETTING INVOLVED IN DIFFICULTIES

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

WITH HIS CONGRESS.

9. PEREZ IN AN ASIDE SAID HE DOUBTED IF LOPEZ MICHELSEN COULD
STAY THE COURSE AS PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA. HE SAID THAT HIS COLLEAGUE
ACROSS THE FORNTIER PRIDED HIMSELF ON BEING VERY STUDIOUS AND
SOMEWHAT "ENGLISH IN ATTITUDE," WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT HE, PEREZ
AS A PRACTICAL POLITICAIN HAD A MORE DOWN TO EARTH APPROACH IN
ASSESSING SITUATIONS.

10. PEREZ EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE DEGREE OF PERUVIAN REARMAMENT
AND ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FACT OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT, THERE
WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS IN PERU. HE SAID HE
WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE PERUVIAN REGIME WENT TO WAR WITH
CHILE, THE TERRITORIAL OBJECTIVE BEING TO RECOVER ARICA. HE
ALSO SPOKE DARKLY OF THE PRESENT CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA AND THOUGHT
THAT GENERAL PINOCHET AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE GOING TOO FAR IN
THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATES AND IN THE GENERALLY
REPRESSIVE MEASURES WHICH THE CHILEAN JUNTA HAD ADOPTED.HOPEFULLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

WHEN HE WAS AT LIMA HE MIGHT HAVE A WORD WITH PINOCHET. PEREZ
THEN ASKED IF WE KNEW WHY MEXICO HAD BROKEN RELATIONS WITH CHILE.
WHEN I SAID I DID NOT KNOW, HE SAID HE DID NOT EITHER,AND THAT THE
MEXICANS, IN ASKING VENEZUELA TO REPRESENT THEIR INTEREST IN
CHILE, HAD IGNORED HIS REQUEST FOR INFO ON THE REASONS
FOR THE BREAK.

CENTRAL AMERICAN SUMMIT AT CARACAS

11. ADVERTING TO THE MINI-SUMMIT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN
PREESIDENTS TO BE HELD IN CARACAS DECEMBER 13-14, HE SAID IN
RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION THAT THE AGENDA WOULD BE CONFINED TO ECONOMIC
SUBJECTS AND THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT ANY POLITICAL ISSUES,
INCLUDING CUBAN RECOGNITION, WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS

12. COMING AGAIN TO COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS, THE PRESIDENT
SAID THAT HE HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITHOUTGOING
PRESIDENT PASTRANA FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE SUBMARINE
BOUNDARY IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA WHEREBY BOTH GOVTS
WOULD AGREE TO DIVIDE EQUALLY ANY OIL OR OTHER WEALTH DISCOVERED
IN THE DISPUTED ZONE, AND THAT INCOMING PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAD
AGREED TO SUCH AN ARANGEMENT, BUT THAT THE DEAL HAD FALLEN THROUGH
OWING TO " SABOTAGE" BY EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA, WHOM HE LIKENED
TO LUCIFER.

13. IT WAS AN ALMOST INDIGESTIBLE BREAKFAST.
MCCLINTOCK

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA11892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740349-0306
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741269/aaaacgqv.tel
Line Count: 222
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
TAGS: PFOR, VE, CU, US, OAS, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES), (MCCLINTOCK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005